

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 7, 15, 16, and 18 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-21 are pending and under consideration.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Applicants request entry of this Rule 116 Amendment and Request for Reconsideration because it is believed that the amendments set forth herein of the claims puts this application into condition for allowance as suggested by the Examiner; and that the amendments set forth herein of the claims should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added or no new issues are being raised. See, M.P.E.P. § 714.12.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, with the Office Action setting forth that these claims fail to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the present amendments to claims 16 and 18, that claims 16-19 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. A withdrawal of the rejection against claims 16-19 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, with the Office Action setting forth that these claims are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

Regarding the features of claims 1 and 16 recited within parenthesis, Applicants respectfully submit that these features are intended to be claimed features. Consideration and examination of same is respectfully requested.

Regarding the claimed "after referring," in claims 1 and 16, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 16 accordingly to overcome the rejection.

Regarding the claimed "the initial states of N survivor paths," in claims 1 and 16, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 16 accordingly to overcome the rejection.

Regarding the Office Action's remark that the claimed "N" in claims 1 and 16, appears to refer to both the claimed "states," and the claimed "survivor paths," Applicants have amended claims 1 and 16 accordingly to overcome the rejection.

Regarding the claimed "the entire stages," in claims 1 and 16, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 16 accordingly to overcome the rejection.

Regarding the Office Action's remark that the claimed "N denotes the number of entire Trellis states," contradicting the claimed "a Trellis structure having a total of N ... states," in claims 1 and 16, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 16 accordingly to overcome the rejection.

Further, in view of the Office Action's remarks, Applicants have accordingly amended claims 7 and 15, so that claims 7 and 15 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1, 16, and 17, satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

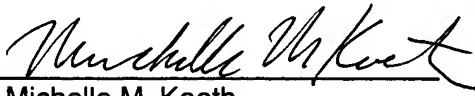
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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